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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 791

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Billy J. Naylor, Vice President for Administration, Freed-Hardeman University, for his years of laudable service to the university and to people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as educators and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Billy J. Naylor, who has just completed his thirty-fourth year of service as a professional educator at Freed-Hardeman University; as Vice President for Administration he serves as counselor and advisor to the President of the university and "stands-in" for the President when he is away from the campus; and

WHEREAS, Billy Naylor was educated in the public schools of Chester County and graduated from Chester County High School in 1952. His education was interrupted by two years of service in the U.S. Army, where he was an honor graduate of the Non-commissioned Officer School at Munich, Germany; and

WHEREAS, returning to civilian life, Billy J. Naylor enrolled in Memphis State University and earned a Master of Arts degree in 1960; he later earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Arkansas in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Naylor served as an administrative intern at Colonial Elementary School in Memphis, Tennessee and as Principal of Maddox Elementary School in West Memphis, Arkansas before going to work for Freed-Hardeman in 1966; and

WHEREAS, during his thirty-four years of involvement in teacher preparation, Dr. Naylor was named to *Outstanding Educators of America* in 1971 and *Personalities of the South* in 1989; he served as a member of the Standards Committee for the Educational Testing Service validation study conducted by Memphis State University for the Tennessee Department of Education. In 1998, the Freed-Hardeman Alumni Association presented Dr. Naylor with the "Service to Education Award"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Naylor's interest and expertise in Tennessee history is well known and has placed him in demand as a speaker on such related topics; he and John Talbott are co-authors of *Finger Prints*, a history of the town of Finger, Tennessee, and Dr. Naylor also teaches a credit course in Tennessee history at Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Naylor, a retired Church of Christ minister, continues to serve as an elder and Bible School teacher; he is most grateful for the love and encouragement he shares with his wife, the former Barbara Colwell, their two daughters and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Billy Naylor, minister of the gospel, teacher, counselor, administrator, and friend to all, epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Naylor for his dedication to the work of his Creator, his profession and the young people whom he has instructed, the University that he serves so well, and the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Billy J. Naylor for his thirty-four years of outstanding service to Freed-Hardeman University, its students and administration, and, by extension, the state of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.